



**PATENT APPLICATION**

In the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Applicant: Stolte et al.

Docket No.: 10034.542

Date: July 29, 2009

Application No.: 10/576,645

Filed: March 9, 2007

Art Unit: 3644

Examiner: T. Nguyen

For: DEVICE AND METHOD FOR AUTOMATICALLY STARTING A MILKING  
PROCESS

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On July 29, 2009

Signature Jeffrey W. Smith

Jeffrey W. Smith, Reg. No. 33455

Name of Applicant, assignee or  
Registered Representative

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT WITH TRAVERSE  
AND SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is in response to a May 29, 2009 restriction requirement in which the examiner  
identified three groups of claims subject to restriction as follows:

Group I – claims 1 to 12 are drawn to a milking machine cylinder.

Group II – claims 13, 14, 16 to 22 are drawn to a milking unit cylinder.

Group III – claims 24 to 26 are drawn to a method for automatically starting a milking  
process.

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To traverse the restriction requirement, Applicants amend herein, independent claim 1 to correct an obvious error in the preamble and to add an element that renders all of the pending claims a single inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1, as described in more detail in the Remarks section below.

This response is timely filed because it is accompanied by a One-Month Extension of Time and the appropriate fee.